GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7182
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2002
SCAM IN PLANTATION PROGRAMME
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a): whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the `Dainik Jagran` dated February8, 2002 regarding scam in plantation programme;

(b): if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c): whether the Government have sent the concerned files to the home Ministry instead of sending these to the State Governments; and

(d): if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BAN DATTATREYA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b)to(d): The news-item does not reflect a true and complete picture of the issue. As per the present policy, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is required to plant 10 treesagainst each tree cut for cosntruction of Delhi MRTS.Necessary funds have been placed by DMRC at the disposal of Forest Department of Governmentof National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD)for planting of trees against the permissions accorded by it to cut trees for construction of Delhi MRTS.

Till date, 3,300 trees have been cut and 1200 trees have been transplanted.

Tree plantation has so far been carried out along the Najafgarh drain and in the Gram Sabha land near Isapur-Kakrola. Effortshave been made by DMRC to arrange more lands throughout Delhifor compensatory aforestation purposes on the banks of River Yamuna and other Gram Sabha lands, in addition to the places already identified along the Najafgarh drain and Isapur-Kakrola area, to enable tree plantation by the Forest Departmentof GNCTD evenly throughout the city, andadditional land is to be made available shortly to DMRC on the banks of River Yamuna for afforestation purposes by the Forest Department.

Against 3,300 trees cut, 33,000 trees were required to be planted. Against this number, 26,500 trees have already been planted according to the information furnished by the Forest Department of GNCTD.